GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4928
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
AVAILABILITY OF URANIUM
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate uranium reserves in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the proper use of uranium reserves available in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) During the last five decades of exploration, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has so far identified approximately 92000 tonnes of uranium resources.

(b) & (c) Consistent with the modest uranium and large thorium resources available in the country, DAE have drawn up a three stage long term nuclear power programme for setting up Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors using natural uranium as fuel in the first stage, Fast Breeder Reactors using plutonium as fuel in the second stage followed by Breeder Reactors using uranium 233 as fuel in thorium 232 - uranium 233 cycle in the third stage.